

Services Division

Committee on China

(Minutes of the Forty-Seventh Meeting -- 1100, 30 August 1955)

25X1A9a Present: Messrs. [REDACTED]

25X1X7 Guests : Messrs. [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED]

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Current Topics

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1. Mr. [REDACTED] S/TR, introduced a roundtable discussion by reviewing the SAIS Southeast Asian Conference. The major themes were economic development, nationalism, communism, membership in the U.N., and foreign aid.

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2. Mr. [REDACTED] A/F, discussed the possibility of a serious famine in North Vietnam. Some estimate that 1,000,000 people will die in 1955. The famine in 1945 may have claimed 600,000 to 2,000,000. It is not believed that starvation in 1955 will be so great as 1945 because the circumstances and conditions are different. The DRV has greater control today than existed in 1945 and demonstrated in 1946 that starvation can be averted. Food shortages are not believed to be so serious as previously estimated. Emphasis is being placed on secondary crops. The condition which exists this year is not particularly unusual. It is also believed that if the food shortage is so great as estimated greater amount of aid would be forthcoming from the Sino-Soviet Bloc. In conclusion it is doubted that starvation on more than a local, restricted basis, will develop.

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3. Mr. [REDACTED], presented a thumbnail sketch of the Indonesian economy and some of their basic economic problems. Indonesia must gain political stability, internal security and economic planning before the particular economic problems can be overcome.

Topics for Future Consideration

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1. Debriefing of Mr. [REDACTED] Strategic Staff, Tokyo.

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2. Briefing by Mr. [REDACTED], Chief, CSS, on CSS current support role.

3. The relationship of economic growth in particular sectors of the Chinese Communist economy.

Agenda for 13 September 1955

1. Continuation of roundtable discussion on Southeast Asia.

2. Current items.

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